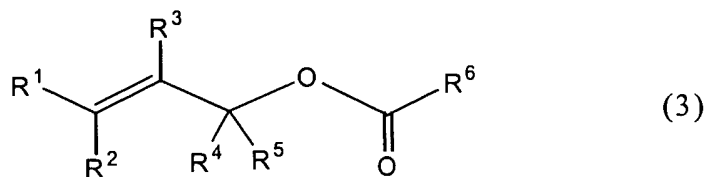


6. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 30, wherein the reaction temperature at the initial time of the hydrogenation reaction is in the range of 0°C to 200°C.

7. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 30, wherein the unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the general formula (1) is at least one compound selected from the group consisting of: allyl acetate, crotyl acetate, methallyl acetate, allyl propionate, crotyl propionate, methallyl propionate, vinyl acetate, vinyl propionate, 1,3-butadienyl acetate, and 1,3-butadienyl propionate.

8. (Thrice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 30, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of Group VIII elements, Group IX elements and Group X elements in the periodic table.

10. (Thrice Amended) A process for producing a hydrogenated ester by hydrogenating an unsaturated group-containing ester represented by a general formula (3) by using a hydrogenating catalyst so as to produce a hydrogenated ester corresponding to the unsaturated group-containing ester, wherein the concentration of a carboxylic acid in a raw material containing the unsaturated group-containing ester represented by the general formula (3) is 1 wt. % or less:



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wherein R^1 , R^2 , R^3 , R^4 and R^5 denote an arbitrary alkyl group containing 1-10 carbon atoms, an arbitrary alkenyl group containing 2 - 10 carbon atoms, or a hydrogen atom and may be the same as or different from each other; the alkyl group and alkenyl group may be either straight-chain or branched; R^6 represents a C1-C10 alkyl group.

32. (Twice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 31, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst comprises at least one species selected from the group consisting of palladium, ruthenium and rhodium.

34. (Twice Amended) The process for producing a hydrogenated ester according to claim 33, wherein the hydrogenating catalyst comprises at least one species selected from the group consisting of palladium, ruthenium and rhodium.